The Scarlet Letter | Literary Analysis Essay

Prompt: Choose 1 - 2 literary elements presented in the novel and show how Hawthorne uses the element(s) to develop one of the themes, characters or the plot in general.
Note—2 parts to prompt: 1) literary elements, 2) themes, characters, or plot

Literary Elements: Mood, Imagery, Symbols (*Scarlet Letter, Prison, Scaffold, Nature, Sunlight, Color, etc.*), Characterization
Themes: Sin, Hypocrisy, Revenge, Judgment, Identity, etc.
Characters: Hester Prynne, Pearl, Arthur Dimmesdale, Roger Chillingworth

Details:
- ✓ 750-1250 words
- ✓ MLA formatting
- ✓ Intro, Body Paragraphs, Conclusion

Please note: A literary analysis essay is not a summary. For a literary analysis essay, you can assume that your audience is familiar with the story, so there is no need to re-tell it. Instead, the purpose of your paper is to explain or prove a point, using the essay format that we will outline in class. The evidence and support for the statements in your body paragraphs will come from the text and commentary on those quotes, instead of things like statistics or personal experience. The only text you will use for support is the novel. There will be no outside sources. A Work Cited page is not necessary. All text references should be cited by page number only.

Literary Analysis Reminders:
- ✓ Include the title and author of the work in the introduction
- ✓ When abbreviating the author's name, use his last name (i.e. Hawthorne, not Nathaniel), and double check spelling!
- ✓ Your introductory paragraph should include a hook to draw your reader into what you are going to say, with your thesis as the final sentence in this paragraph
- ✓ Your thesis should make a persuasive claim AND clearly address all parts of the prompt
- ✓ Each body paragraph should include a persuasive topic sentence that clearly supports the thesis, following the TRIAC model
- ✓ Use literary present tense when discussing the novel (Hawthorne *states*, the author *uses*, etc).
- ✓ Analysis must be more than a summary of the plot or quote. Instead, it must explain how the quote supports your topic sentence and your thesis
- ✓ Introduce quotations properly and only quote words you need (don't make your quotes longer than they need to be and don't just drop them into your writing)
- ✓ Before choosing a quote to use as evidence, go back and read the quote in context— be doubly sure it means what you claim!
- ✓ Cite all quotes and text references with an in-text citation (page number only)
- ✓ No first or second person (I/we/you), no contractions (does not instead of doesn't), few be-verbs (one, at most two per paragraph)

Due Dates:
- ♦ Thesis Statement due **10/14**
- ♦ Outline due **10/19**
- ♦ 1st Draft due **10/26**
- ♦ Final Draft due **11/4**